

HOMOPHONY

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A homophone is a word or phrase pronounced like another word or phrase, but different in meaning and possibly in derivation as well, as DONE/DUN or BITE/BIGHT/BYTE. Not long ago, I realized that a large number of homophones could be constructed on the word ROSES, particularly if punctuation as well as spelling were used to distinguish among the various examples:

- the presence or absence of a capital letter, as illustrated by the girl's name (Rose) and the flower (rose)
- the presence or absence of an apostrophe, as in a simple plural (roses), the genitive of a singular noun (Rose's), and the genitive of a plural noun (Roses').

Multiplying these possibilities together, I came up with the following 30 homophones on ROSES. All can, no doubt, be incorporated into meaningful English sentences.

roses	rosies	rhos is	rows is	rho zizz
rose's	rosy's	rho's is	row's is	Ro zizz
roses'	Rosy's	rhos' is	rows' is	roe zizz
Roses	rosies'	roes is	Rowes is	row zizz
Rose's	Rosies	roe's is	Rowe's is	Rowe zizz
Roses'	Rosie's	roes' is	Rowes' is	Rosies'

RHO, RO, ROE, ROSE and ROW are nouns from Webster's Third; ROWE is a proper name occurring in the etymology of roweite in Webster's Third; ROSE, ROSIE and ROSY are proper names given in the Random House Dictionary; ROSY is a verb in Webster's Third and a noun in Webster's Second; and ZIZZ is a noun and verb from Webster's Second.